



DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Description of proposal: The Washington State Department of Natural Resources intends to review and update the 1985 Department of Natural Resources Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The Department of Natural Resources is mandated to maintain a viable oil and gas leasing program for state lands (Revised Code of Washington 78.52.001, Revised Code of Washington 78.52.040 and Washington Administrative Code 332-12-150). The Oil and Gas Leasing Program covers preliminary exploratory and investigative actions and lease auctioning for state land for possible development and production, while conserving and enhancing natural resources.

Proponent: Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Location of proposal: All state-managed lands. The commissioner of public lands is authorized to execute oil and gas leases for both the Department of Natural Resources and for other state agencies' lands in Washington. (Washington Administrative Code 332-12-150)

Lead agency: Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement required. The lead agency has determined that changes to the Oil and Gas Leasing Program may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement is required under Revised Code of Washington 43.21C.030(2)(c). A supplemental environmental impact statement to the 1985 Department of Natural Resources Oil and Gas Leasing Program Final Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared to analyze the potential adverse impacts of this proposal. The 1985 Department of Natural Resources Oil and Gas Leasing Program and the 1985 Environmental Impact Statement may be reviewed at the Natural Resources Building in Olympia at 1111 Washington Street SE, from 8:00 to 4:30 Monday through Friday, or on our website at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa>

The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement:

- 1) The Oil and Gas Leasing Program must be updated to include the 1988 Washington Administrative Code 332-12-150 authorization for the Department of Natural Resources to lease state lands for other state agencies.
- 2) The Oil and Gas Leasing Program needs to be reevaluated in terms of current knowledge and laws governing wildlife and wildlife habitat protection.
- 3) Alignment of the 1985 Oil and Gas Leasing Program with broad Department of Natural Resources landscape and ecosystem assessments and plans since 1985, such as the 1992 Forest Resource Plan, Natural Area Preserves and Natural Resource Conservation Areas, the 1997 Department of Natural Resources Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, and the 1994 House Bill 1309, Ecosystem Standards for State-Owned Agricultural and Grazing Lands.

4) The relationship between the Department of Natural Resources as auctioneer, and the other state agencies leasing state lands for oil and gas exploration, needs to be updated. This includes each agency's State Environmental Policy Act or administrative duties or responsibilities, including any Memorandums Of Agreement or Memorandums Of Understanding.

5) Oil and Gas Leasing Program policies and current laws and rules (current forest practices rules, new Endangered Species Act listings, 1994 Oil and Gas Conservation Act (Revised Code of Washington 78.52) revision assigning the Oil and Gas Conservation Committee duties to the Department of Natural Resources).

Scoping: Agencies, tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The method and deadline for giving us your comments are:

All scoping comments must be received in writing (via regular mail, fax, or electronic mail) and must be received by the State Environmental Policy Act Center no later than 5:00 PM on **December 1, 2004.**

Comments should be submitted to:

Address: Washington State Department of Natural Resources
State Environmental Policy Act Center
1111 Washington Street SE
PO Box 47015
Olympia, WA 98504-7015
Phone: (360) 902-1634
Fax: (360) 902-1789
Email: sepacenter@wadnr.gov

Responsible official: Kit Metlen

Position/Title: Asset Management and Protection Division Manager

Phone: (360) 902-1600

Address: 1111 Washington Street SE
PO Box 47014
Olympia, WA 98504-7014

Date:

4 November 2004

Signature:

